

# TARC News

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Publisher, Tom Fuller

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## 68th Annual W9DXCC Convention

By Roy and Stephanie Merritt – N4RKM / K4MVO  
Every year with the exception of last year (COVID 19, remember that) the Northern Illinois DX Association sponsors the Annual W9DXCC Convention. While Stephanie has attended several of these events, this is my second one. What a diverse group of individuals, all with a common love for ham radio, DX and Contesting in particular. Man, talk about your intense operators. Anyway, it is a thoroughly professionally organized and run Convention for and by ham radio operators who are passionate about our hobby.

The W9DXCC DX Convention which I will from now on, refer to as the event, covers two days. On Friday, there are two streams of day long training that takes place. One focused on DX operations called the DX University, sponsored by NIDXA and the other of course on Contesting called Contesting University, sponsored by the Society of Midwest Contesters. The organizers always and I mean always manage to bring on board speakers who are professionals or leaders in their subject



### ARRL CEO David Minster At the podium

matter with all topics of special interest to ham radio operators. For instance, in the DX stream of training this year, we heard from subject matter experts (SME's) on:

Understanding Propagation in Preparation for Cycle 25 by Carl Leutzelschwab (K9LA) lightning protection.

First Tower, Lessons Learned by John McCormick (K9KE).

Lightning Protection for the Radio Amateur by Lloyd Berg (N9LB) [with 50 years of experience in broadcast engineering].  
DXCC and FT8 by Anthony Willard (AB9YC).

Operating Procedures and Etiquette for DXers by Bernie McClenny (W3UR) [editor/publisher of The Daily DX and The

Weekly DX, and also writes the How's DX column in QST].

Ground Screens as a Replacement for or Addition to radial Systems for Verticals by Rob Sherwood (NC0B).

Follow this link: <https://w9dxcc.com/dx-contest-universities/> for a list of topics and their SME presenters for the Contesting University.

On Saturday, there was a full day of activities with many notable speakers. An ARRL forum was also held to talk about all the current activities of interest to us hams and to let us know what the ARRL is doing on our behalf. I especially enjoyed this event as throughout the day, they hold various raffles (which I like.) Apart from the fun and anticipation of hearing you callsign called out to win one of the wonderful prizes, we should not forget that these raffles and their associated ticket sales, are used to raise money to support DX Expeditions for us hams. This year, I was lucky enough to win the Icom IC-705 radio, kindly donated by Icom. Speaking of raffles and prizes, it always amazes me the number and

quality of door prizes and raffle prizes available at this event. They are all usually top quality, worthwhile items which enables the Conference to raise substantial amounts of money to support DX Expeditions as just mentioned.

The highlight of the weekend event was the evening dinner, DXCC Countdown and Grand Prize Raffle. Our guest speaker for the evening was none other than the CEO of the ARRL. He gave an excellent, relevant and downright straightforward speech on the state of the ARRL; where we are and his vision for our future (the ARRL as well as ham radio.) As always, the ARRL is always on the lookout for quality folks to step up and make a difference to our hobby and the ARRL. Below are a few bullet points from the ARRL CEO, Mr. David Minster, NA2AA:

David's vision in modernizing the ARRL keeping it relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was to become a member centric vs. Headquarters centric, organization. He gave an example of this by saying they have extended customer service hours to ensure customer support for those on the west coast of the U.S.

David said that if fees were to be levied for getting a license, that the ARRL would pay for the license exam cost for youngsters so there would be no barrier for youth coming into the hobby.

David also mentioned the large number of folks who are getting a license, but do not seem to be doing anything with them. E.G., as in not taking up the hobby. The ARRL is preparing



David Minster

a survey to go out to essentially find out why. Maybe with a view of reaching out to these folks to see if there was something we can do as an organization to support them. David emphasized that section leaders and clubs should be on the lookout for these kinds of license holders and reach out where we can to see if we can help facilitate getting those hams active.

Apparently, David has brought on a new manager for the lifelong learning department. The name of this department will also be changing, but the new name was not mentioned or if it was, I did not catch it. The new manager is a high school teacher and has personally licensed over 200 students. The ARRL is definitely looking to get a youth program started or reinvigorate the one we have. There are apparently more education initiatives coming down the pike but David did not elaborate further.

David also wants to reach out to the social media folks to see if we can bring some of them into the hobby.

W1AW now has a new look and the ARRL has gone back to manufacturers looking for a refresh of radios. David is hoping to get a total refresh donated by manufacturers. He stated that most of the current radios are old and cannot be purchased anymore.

Station automation with Raspberry PI using code red was brought up as another example of where the ARRL sees technology meshing happily with ham radio. The ARRL is looking to pilot that and make it available to members. I think here he was referring in particular to W1AW but I am sure that technology would be shared with the ham community at large.

For our testers, it was noted that many contesting rule changes put

together by the contest committee have been approved and sent to the ARRL for implementation. Many changes will be coming soon. Watch your QST.

David mentioned that there are a number of challenges to the RF spectrum that would affect hams. In particular, it appears we will be losing the 3 Ghz band to commercial. David said that so far, HF was not in danger.

Above is the gist of the notes I took from David's presentation. You really needed to be there to get a true feel for the conversation and his passion for the hobby and the ARRL in particular. I think those who vetted and brought him on board as the CEO have found a real diamond in David Minster.

I really do encourage you to attend one of these events if you can to get a real feel for all the activity that goes on. It is just so refreshing to be in such a large group of like-minded folks and in particular SME's whom I found to be only too happy to share tips and tricks to improve everything from your station to your operating skills.

Hope to see you there next year.

73

Roy / N4RKM and Stephanie / K4MVO



Prize winners Roy and Stephanie Merritt



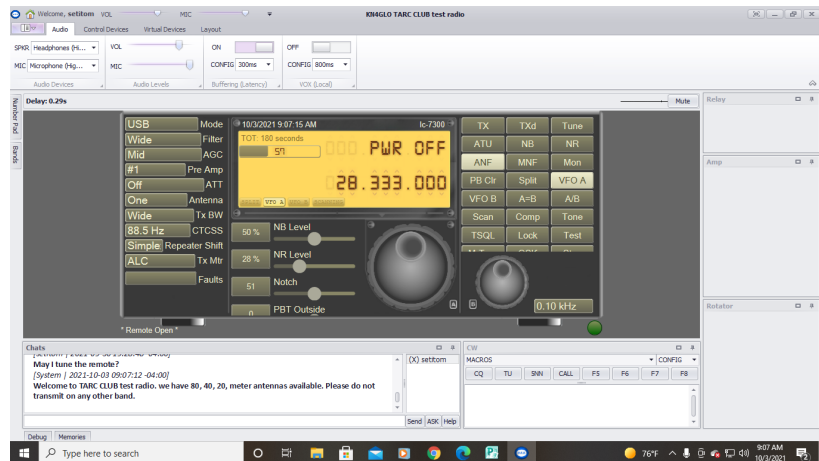


## Remote Radio

At the September Club meeting I did another demonstration of a remote operated radio software that we can consider for our Denman road project.

Remotehams.com is the open source software that I used and it has lots of neat options.

Download the latest Client version of RCForb and set up your account. I suggest using your call sign as your ID because to login you



need administrator approval and that would make it easier to know who wants access. Right now I am acting as administrator but hopefully we can find someone to do this once everything is

completely set up.

I have my ICOM 7300 set up and have 20, 40, and 80 meter band antennas available.

## 10 Meter Experiments - N6YCC

For the weekly 10 Meter TARC “Mosquito Net”, I’ve been experimenting with several different configurations, including my base station inside my home, a portable station in my back yard, and my mobile with a mag mount collapsible whip antenna. It’s surprising how much better a vertical antenna does for local comms with similarly configured stations! When I’m on my horizontal dipole, I can barely hear the stations in Titusville and beyond, but vertical really pulls them in. It’s fun to experiment with different configurations and radios. Something on my bucket list is to set up portable out on the water, across the river from Titusville. Stay tuned to see how that turns out!

73 DE N6YCC - Paul

## Name Tags

Barry Kennedy  
N4NMF is taking  
orders for name  
tags. These are  
very nice and come  
in several different  
designs.  
Contact Barry at  
n4nmf@outlook.com

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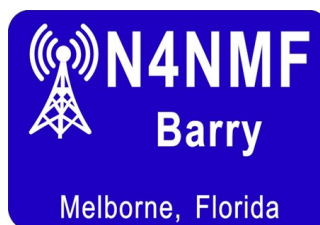
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## Melbourne Ham Fest

Melbourne City Auditorium  
625 East Hibiscus Blvd  
Melbourne Florida  
October 8th and 9th

## ATTENTION, ATTENTION, ATTENTION ATTENTION

October club meeting is the 26th and it is our POT LUCK, the time is 6 PM  
Please make a note of this and come enjoy the friendship of other Hams.  
This is always a good time.

## Notes from the Editor

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the News Letter this month it makes it more interesting and fun to do.

I am still wanting everyone to submit a photo for your ham shack, that I can post. Tell me a little about it and it don't mater how big or small it is .

Email me, ts0939@gmail.com

# OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97  Eating Meeting 5pm	1	2
3	4	5 Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	6 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	7 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97  Eating Meeting 5pm	8 Melbourne ham Fest	9 Melbourne Ham Fest
10	11	12 Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	13 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	14 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97  Eating Meeting 5pm	15	16
17	18	19 Sky Warn Net 7pm 146.97	20 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	21 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97  Eating Meeting 5pm	22	23
24	25	26 Club Meeting 6 PM POT LUCK Dinner	27 Mosquito Net 7pm 28.333	28 Friendship Traders Net 7pm 146.97  Eating Meeting 5pm	29	30
31						